

Message Text

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65-61

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 L-02 EUR-12

PRS-01 OC-05 CCO-00 OCL-00 DODE-00 /054 W

----- 016999

R 221428Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4560

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6053

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR ET US

SUBJECT: NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL KAGNEW LEASE

1. DURING MAY 21 DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN KIFLE I REMINDED HIM THAT LAST MOVE ON NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL HAS BEEN MADE BY US ON MARCH 28, AND WE HAD HEARD NOTHING SINCE. KIFLE SAID THERE WAS SOME PUZZLEMENT IN THE GOE AS TO WHY THE MATTER SHOULD BE HANDLED THIS WAY INSTEAD OF IN A "PHASE-DOWN AGREEMENT". I SAID WE HAVE AT PRESENT NO PLANS FOR FURTHER PHASEDOWN, AND SO WE WANT TO FINISH NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL.

2. THIS LED TO CONFUSING DISCUSSION OF U.S. INTENT, WHICH KIFLE POINTED OUT HAD BEEN PUBLICLY STATED IN JOINTLY AGREED ANNOUNCEMENTS IN 1973 AS BEING FOR A PERIOD OF "AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR BEYOND" JULY 1, 1974. I SAID I WAS AWARE OF THIS, BUT NO ACUTAL COMMITMENT HAD BEEN MADE, AND USG NOW DESIRES TO KEEP THE PRESENT LEVEL OF COMNAVUNIT FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME MORE, BUT PROBABLY NOT BEYOND THE LIFE OF THE BASIC AGREEMENT, IN 1978. I OFFERED TO OBTAIN A DEFINITVIE STATEMENT OF U.S. DESIRES IF IT WOULD HELP, AND HE HASTILY SAID NOT TO DO THAT YET. I ASKED IF I WAS SUPPOSED TO INFER THAT THE GOE WANTED COMNAVUNIT TO BE WITHDRAWN DESPITE THE BASIC AGREEMENT, BUT KIFLE DECLINED TO ALLOW SUCH AN INFERENCE. HE SAID HE MIGHT BE BACK TO ME LATER FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

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3. COMMENT: SOME PART OF THE GOE HAS OBVIOUSLY PUT KIFLE UP TO

QUERYING USG INTENTIONS AT KAGNEW. IT IS NOT SO OBVIOUS WHY THE
INQUIRY WAS MADE -- WHETHER TO PUSH US TOWARD FINAL WITHDRAWAL,
OR TO GET REASSURANCE THAT THE USG STILL NEEDS KAGNEW AND THEREFORE
WILL PAY FOR THE PRIVILEGE.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, LEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS06053
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750180-0731
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750525/aaaaavyg.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL KAGNEW LEASE
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, ET, US, KAGNEW STATION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006